

# Eye on Robins



2004

During the course of 2004, men and women from Robins Air Force Base deployed all over the globe in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They left their families and friends to go out and do what they were trained to do – support American interests. And they did it everywhere – from the Iraqi desert to Afghanistan to the cold of Kyrgyzstan and the colder Antarctica.

Units here also flew missions in support of Homeland Defense. There were Airmen performing battle damage repairs, providing security, running miles of communications cables, flying aerial refueling missions, performing maintenance on aircraft and setting up or tearing down base bases.

To help facilitate it all, the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Readiness Flight at Robins has processed 4,617 Airmen and 1,086 short tons of cargo for deployment since January.

(Graphic illustration by Staff Sgt. Brian Bahret)

## How far is it?

- #1 UK - 4,139 mi
- #2 Spain - 4,313 mi
- #3 Turkey - 6,241 mi
- #4 Iraq - 6,781 mi
- #5 Kuwait - 7,138 mi
- #6 Bahrain - 7,401 mi
- #7 Qatar - 7,481 mi
- #8 UAE - 7,600 mi
- #9 Uzbekistan - 7,060 mi
- #10 Kyrgyzstan - 7,055 mi
- #11 Afghanistan - 7,486 mi
- #12 Pakistan - 7,760 mi
- #13 Japan - 7,882 mi
- #14 Djibouti - 7,790 mi
- #15 Diego Garcia - 10,114 mi
- #16 Antarctica - 8,687 mi
- #17 Ecuador - 2,277 mi



## Robins Units Deployed

OF	OF	OF
19th ARG	5th CCG	78th MDG
78th CEG	17th ASOS	78th SFS
78th CS	18th ASOS	78th SVS
78th SFS	19th ARG	116th ACW
	78th CEG	653rd CLSS
	78th OSS	WRALC

## #4 Iraq



OF	OF	OF
19th ARG	5th CCG	78th MDG
78th CEG	17th ASOS	78th SFS
78th CS	18th ASOS	78th SVS
78th SFS	19th ARG	116th ACW
	78th CEG	653rd CLSS
	78th OSS	WRALC

## #9 Uzbekistan



OF	OF	OF
78th CEG	78th SFS	78th CS
78th CS	116th ACW	78th OSS
78th OSS	WRALC	78th MSS

## #10 Kyrgyzstan



OF	OF	OF
19th ARG	78th SFS	78th CEG
78th CEG	116th ACW	78th CS
78th CS	AFRC	78th MDG
78th MDG	WRALC	78th MSS

## Afghanistan



OF	OF	OF
17th ASOS	78th CS	18th ASOS
18th ASOS	116th ACW	19th ARG
19th ARG	WRALC	78th CEG

## Kuwait



OF	OF	OF
5th CCG	116th ACW	19th ARG
19th ARG	653rd CLSS	78th CEG
78th CEG	AFRC	78th LRS
78th LRS	WRALC	78th MSS
OF	78th CEG	78th SFS

## Pakistan



OF	OF	OF
78th MDG	78th SFS	5th CCG
78th SFS	78th CEG	78th CS

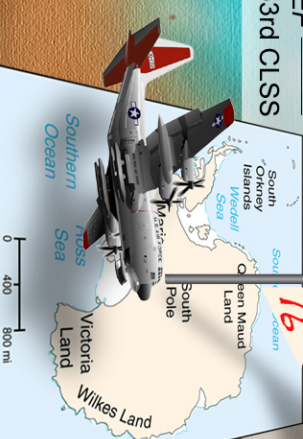
## Qatar

## #7 Robins Units Deployed

OF	OF	OF
5th CCG	19th ARG	78th CEG
19th ARG	78th CS	78th LRS
78th CS	78th MDG	78th SFS
78th SFS	78th OSS	116th ACW
116th ACW	653rd CLSS	WRALC



## #16 Antarctica



OF	OF	OF
653rd CLSS	116th ACW	78th CEG

#1 United Kingdom	#2 Spain	#3 Turkey	#6 Bahrain	#8 United Arab Emirates	#13 Japan	#14 Djibouti	#15 Diego Garcia	#17 Ecuador
OF	OF	OF	OF	OF	OF	OF	OF	OF
19th ARG	19th ARG	19th ARG	5th CCG	19th ARG	19th ARG	78th CEG	19th ARG	19th ARG
116th ACW	19th ARG	19th ARG	5th CCG	19th ARG	19th ARG	78th CEG	19th ARG	19th ARG
19th ARG	19th ARG	19th ARG	5th CCG	19th ARG	19th ARG	78th CEG	19th ARG	19th ARG
19th ARG	19th ARG	19th ARG	5th CCG	19th ARG	19th ARG	78th CEG	19th ARG	19th ARG





Robins around town  
See Page 7A

# ROBINS Rev-Up

DICE man aims to change attitudes toward security  
See Page 3A

## News you can use

### MPF open Saturday for customer service

Military Personnel Flight's customer service section will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon for the following services: Common Access Cards, dependent cards, retiree cards, DEERS updates, SGLI, vRED and any other DEERS issues. If you have any questions, call 327-7361/62/63.

— From staff reports

### Gate 1, 5 hours set to change Monday

Effective Monday, Gate 1 at Green Street and Gate 5 at Martin Luther King will close daily at 6 p.m. A study indicated a low volume of traffic entering and exiting those gates between 6-6:30 p.m.

— From staff reports

### Base post office extends hours

The Robins Post Office has extended its operating hours for December. The holiday hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The post office is located next to the Base Theater in Building 910, 740 Macon St.

— From staff reports

### Rev-Up accepting holiday submissions

Does your organization have a holiday activity you would like to have included in the Rev-Up?

If so, submit the information to Geoff Janes, editor, at [vance.janes@robins.af.mil](mailto:vance.janes@robins.af.mil), or to Angela Trunzo, associate editor, at [angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil](mailto:angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil) by 4 p.m. Monday for publication in the Dec. 17 Rev-Up. Photos, in JPEG format, also will be accepted.

For more information, call 926-2137 or e-mail Mr. Janes or Ms. Trunzo.

— From staff reports

# holiday exchange

While many Airmen will be spending the holidays with their families this year, others will be defending their country on the other side of the world. This week the Rev-Up takes a look at the faces and places of Robins Air Force Base deployment.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Above, 2nd Lt. Kimberly Grisson boards a KC-135 Monday for a 19th Air Refueling Group deployment to Al Eudid Air Base, Qatar. Below, Ryan Rodriguez and his mom Christina hold a welcome home sign for his dad and her husband, Staff Sgt. Pete Rodriguez, Sunday.



By Lanorris Askew  
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A bright, chilly December day ushered out the first group of Black Knights heading for Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, while a rainy night in Georgia welcomed their brothers and sisters home.

The group of Airmen, the second to return within a week's time, arrived a little later than scheduled, but were nevertheless greeted by waving flags and some very happy family members.

Christina Rodriguez and her sons Ryan and Jonathan were glad to say goodbye to the waiting game. With 72 days between them and Staff Sgt. Pete Rodriguez, a boom operator with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron,

## INSIDE Where in the world have Robins' Airmen been in 2004?

Page 1B

they were giddy with anticipation. "We've been waiting on him to get home so we can put up the Christmas tree together," said Mrs. Rodriguez. "We're really just looking forward to being able to spend time with him."

While she is looking forward to the shopping days ahead, her 7-year-old son Ryan was ready for a father-son wrestling match.

Phoebe Webb, who had to celebrate her

Please see **EXCHANGE, 4A**

## Unit deployments

Other units at Robins also have Airmen deployed during the holidays. Currently the 5th Combat Communications Group has 22 people deployed. The 116th Air Control Wing has 318 people deployed but expect 135 to return before Christmas. The 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron has 51 people deployed but expect them home before Christmas.

# 78th Logistics Readiness Flight gets Airmen ready for deployments

By Holly L. Birchfield  
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Deploying thousands of troops takes a team effort.

From ensuring Airmen are up to date on all necessary documentation and medical requirements to securing cargo needed for the mission, planning and executing deployments for all the units at Robins is a full-time job for the 78th Logistics Readiness Flight – one that requires a lot of planning.

### Taking care of business

While a lot of planning is done days and sometimes even weeks in advance

### What to know

In fiscal 2004, the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Readiness Flight processed 4,927 Airmen and 1,282.2 short tons of cargo for deployment. The flight has processed 4,617 Airmen and 1,086 short tons of cargo for deployment since the beginning of this calendar year.

of a deployment, there can still be some loose ends to be tied before Airmen ever board the plane.

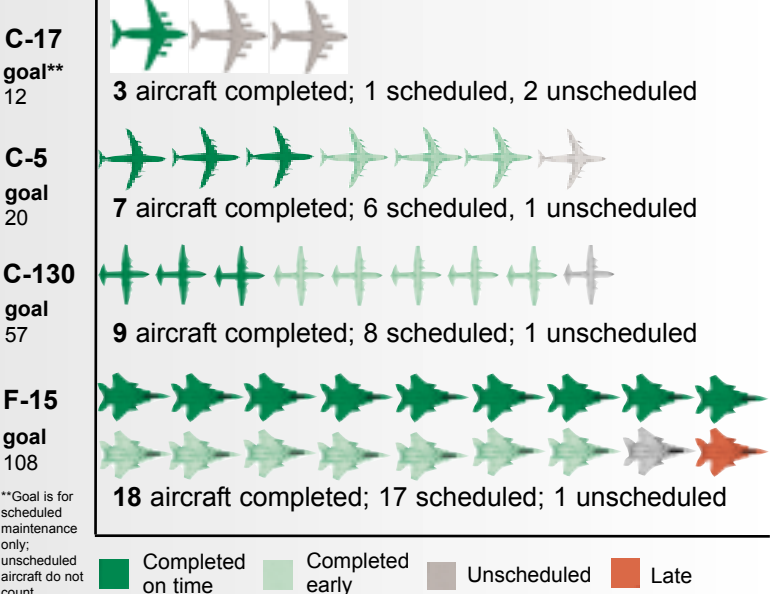
"When we do the deployment planning, we look at two key areas – per-

sonnel and cargo, said Capt. David Spencer, 78th Logistics Readiness Flight commander and installation deployment officer for all units assigned to Robins. "We'll plan for a personnel line, where we bring (the deploying) folks in and we have all the experts from Personnel, the legal office and other various areas come in and form a processing line to help folks get everything they need and get their cargo ready to get them out the door."

Representatives from various base agencies are on hand in Building 127 up to four hours before troops depart.

Please see **READY, 2A**

## Aircraft Maintenance Output fiscal 2005 year-to-date production (as of Dec. 8)



**Robins 3-day forecast**  
Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW

**Today**  
Partly cloudy with chance of rain

**Saturday**  
Mostly sunny  
71/56

**Sunday**  
Partly to mostly cloudy  
65/42

**Monday**  
Partly to mostly cloudy  
57/34

### What's inside

Base officials give advice on how to stay healthy during flu season **2A**  
Airmen get better dorm life with new heating, air system **5A**  
Staff sergeant wins local survivor competition **4B**  
Airman begins new year at general's side **8B**



Shanna McLees hugs Senior Airman Michael Long Sunday. Airman Long returned from a deployment to Qatar.

## EXCHANGE

Continued from 1A

one-year wedding anniversary alone, could hardly contain her joy when her husband Capt. Jeff Webb, a KC-135 pilot, stepped off the plane.

“It makes Christmas so much better when you know someone is going to be here,” she said. “You don’t realize what it was really like when they were gone until they’re here for a holiday.”

Captain Webb had a similar reaction to being home.

“I got a lump in my throat on the plane when I thought about seeing her,” he said.

He said being home hadn’t really sunk in yet, but he would be happy to see friends again and get some good home cooking.

Col. Jeff Kennedy, 19th Air Refueling Group deputy commander, was there to welcome the troops home too.

“It’s a very exciting time,” he said. “This is the payoff for all the work that we do, and the best part is getting to reunite the members with their families. We’re so excited to have them home.”

Though most of the Airmen were returning from Qatar, one of the passengers hitched a ride home from his deployment in Iraq. Col. Raymond Rottman’s wife and family stood awaiting his return after more than 100 days.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to have him back,” said Tess Rottman.

Colonel Rottman, commander of the 19th ARG will be leaving his position at the end of the month for a new job at Scott Air Force Base, so their holiday plans include reuniting as well as packing. (see sidebar for details)

“We’re moving in a few short weeks so the plan is to pack up and get ready to go and mix that in with Christmas,” she said. “We are excited about the move, but for now we are focusing on him coming home and the other families being reunited as well – that’s the most



Capt. Donnie Starling, navigator, prepares for the deployment flight in the cockpit of a KC-135 Nov. 29.

important for today.”

The commander said he is happy to be home again and to be able to do so with his fellow Black Knights made it even better.

“It’s awesome to be home after almost 100 days,” he said. “It’s nice to be a part of a very important mission over there in Iraq, and I am just happy to be back with the family especially at Christmas.”

While the homecoming means some families will be together for the holidays, the two groups of Airmen who left earlier in the week aren’t as fortunate.

“The mission continues no matter if there are holidays or not,” said Colonel Rottman. “Our hearts and prayers should go out to them more so this time of year than ever, because they’re separated from their families. They’re doing great things over there, and it’s an important mission that has got to be done. They are doing a great job.”

Twenty-three year old Airman 1st Class Nathan Giadrosich is one of those. He has deployed three times in the past two years, but said he is more proud each

time because he knows he is supporting his country.

“It feels really great to go over and do what I signed on to do,” he said before boarding the aircraft Nov. 29. “I know that I’m serving my country and that I’m doing what I can to make sure America is safe.”

The Destin, Fla., native said although Christmas is a time for family, this deployment isn’t so bad.

“I got to spend a little time with them for Thanksgiving,” said the 19th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron KC-135 crew chief. “I’d love to be able to see them at Christmas, but they understand. They know I have a job to do.”

Airman Zach Lauritzen, a boom operator with the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, headed out on his second deployment this year.

“It’s good for me because I’m not married and don’t have kids so the people with kids can stay home and enjoy the family time,” he said. “It makes me feel like I’m actually making a difference.”



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
Col. Raymond Rottman, 19th Air Refueling Group commander, celebrates his return home from Iraq with his wife Tess.

## Farewell flight

# Commander’s return marks end of tenure with Black Knights

By Lanorris Askew  
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While Sunday night was a great homecoming celebration for nearly two dozen Black Knights, it was also a special time to say goodbye to the man they have called their leader for more than a year.

Riding in with his troops on the 19th Air Refueling Group’s signature aircraft, a KC-135, Col. Raymond Rottman, group commander, accomplished two things - the end of a 100-day deployment to Iraq and his final flight as a Black Knight.

The commander returned early from his deployment at Balad Air Base, Iraq, where he served as the Operations Group commander, to prepare for his newest assignment as the 375th Airlift Wing commander at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. There he will replace Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, who also preceded him as the 19th ARG commander. Colonel Faulkenberry will become Squadron Officer College commander, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

According to Colonel Rottman there are mixed emotions attached to this move.

close family friend sprayed him with water as he exited the aircraft. The send off also included champagne and well wishes from the crowd.

Colonel Faulkenberry said she is well aware of her successor’s abilities as a leader and is happy to be able to hand over the reins once again.

“I am thrilled to be passing the 375th Airlift Wing torch to Colonel Rottman,” she said. “Like the 19th Air Refueling Group, the 375th Airlift Wing has a critical mission in the Global War on Terrorism and a rich history - the 12,000 Airmen and civilians who call Scott Air Force Base home will be in great hands under Colonel Rottman’s leadership. As a fellow Black Knight, I know he brings a tradition of excellence to Air Mobility Command’s ‘Showcase Wing’.”

The change of command ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Dec. 30 at the Museum of Aviation’s Century of Flight Hangar. Colonel Rottman will relinquish command to Col. Steven Bernard, currently the 22nd Operations Group deputy commander at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Additionally, Maj. Marc VanWert, 19th Operations Support Squadron director of operations, has been selected to replace Lt. Col. Creg Paulk as the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, commander. That change of command will take place next summer when Lt. Col. Paulk departs for the National War College in Washington D.C.



Senior Airman Brandon Benton gets a welcome home kiss from his son Ryan, 4, as his wife April and daughter Brianna, 2, look on Sunday.